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Approved For Release 2003/06/17 : CIA-RDP80R01794R003600070027-1

NAVY DEPARTMENT
Office of the Chief of Naval Operations
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

Op-32X

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27 December 1947

MEMORANDUM for Secretary, Joint Intelligence Committee.

Subject: Joint Dictionary of Military Terms for
Army-Navy Use.

Reference: (a) J.I.C. 383.

1. It is recommended that the definition "Intelligence - Evaluation" (page 6 of Enclosure "A" of reference (a)) be modified to read:

"Evaluation - The critical and systematic appraisal of an item of information in order to determine its credibility, reliability and accuracy."

2. This modification is desirable in order to eliminate confusion with "Analysis", which is separately, and correctly, defined as another stage in the processing of information into intelligence.

3. It is suggested consideration be given to inclusion of the word "Synthesis" in the qualifying or descriptive definitions of Intelligence as another important stage of processing. The following definition is proposed:

"Synthesis - The combining of information and previously received intelligence after the various pertinent elements have been evaluated and analyzed and the necessary research work has been done, for the final determination of the meaning and significance of the situation under study."

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THOS. B. INGLIS

Terminology
Free

OPERATIONAL INFORMATION

Operational information concerns itself with the day-by-day, hour-by-hour movements of the enemy, knowledge of which a tactical commander must have in order effectively to fight the enemy wherever he may show himself. He does not have time to call in evaluation specialists, he does not have time to consult experts. He himself must evaluate, instantly, wisely and effectively, what each bit of information means, put them together and make prompt decisions accordingly.

Intelligence concerns itself with the long-range evaluation of enemy movements, should be done by specialists who have access to a wide number of sources of operational information, from the flow of which they can make broad conclusions affecting the whole field of operations and the whole war.

The one is tactical. The other is strategic. The strategic intelligence expert should not be permitted to interfere in the making of tactical decisions.